



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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GAIL FARBER, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

November 29, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

36 November 29, 2011

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR –  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REGARDING THE LOS ANGELES BASIN STORMWATER  
CONSERVATION STUDY  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

This action is to authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to prepare and submit preliminary documents necessary to secure additional assistance from the U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation for the proposed Los Angeles Basin Stormwater Conservation Study and for the U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation to provide up to \$75,000 of matching support services in the development of the preliminary documents.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

Authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or her designee to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation for the preparation and submittal of a revised proposal, including a Plan of Study, for assistance from the U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation in developing a Los Angeles Basin Stormwater Conservation Study, and for the U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation to provide up to \$75,000 in matching support services for the preparation of the revised proposal and Plan of Study.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the recommended action is to authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) or her designee to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau). The MOA will enable the LACFCD to obtain support services from the Bureau in connection with the LACFCD's preparation of a revised Basin Study Proposal and Plan of Study. These documents are necessary to enhance the LACFCD's proposal to the Bureau for assistance in developing the Los Angeles Basin Stormwater Conservation Study (Study).

## **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3). The Study will provide preliminary planning for improvements to the LACFCD's water conservation system infrastructure. The lives of the residents of the County of Los Angeles are enriched by indirectly accessing this highly essential infrastructure service through local water purveyors served by the LACFCD.

## **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The anticipated total maximum cost to prepare and submit a revised Study proposal and the Plan of Study is \$150,000, which will be funded as follows: LACFCD's Flood Fund – \$75,000 of LACFCD staff time, and the Bureau's Basin Studies Program – \$75,000 in support services provided by Bureau staff. Sufficient funds to cover LACFCD's share are available in the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Flood Fund Budget.

## **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Federal Secure Water Act of 2009 (Title IX, Subtitle F of Public Law 111-11) authorized the Bureau to provide technical assistance to non-Federal agencies with a value up to \$1 million per agency under the WaterSMART Basin Studies Program.

The Federal Secure Water Act of 2009 was passed with the purpose of addressing water security challenges in the western states affected by competition for finite water supplies, extended droughts, and the compounding effects of climate change. Under the Federal Secure Water Act of 2009, the Basin Studies Program focuses on addressing basinwide water supply issues, with specific consideration of risks and impacts of climate change that could potentially be resolved with changes to the operation of water supply systems, modification to existing facilities, development of new facilities, or nonstructural changes. Under this Program, the Bureau provides up to \$1 million of in-kind services through partnership with non-Federal applicants. Applicants must match 50 percent of the cost of the study, which can be covered with in-kind services, cash contribution, or a combination of both.

In March 2011, the LACFCD submitted a Letter of Interest to the Bureau indicating that the LACFCD would like to be considered for a partnership with the Bureau under the Basin Studies Program to perform a study to determine the long-term potential for the LACFCD's facilities to capture increased amounts of local stormwater for water supply purposes and develop conceptual planning for

enhancement and expansion of the LACFCD's facilities to meet future water supply needs.

In May 2011, the LACFCD submitted a formal proposal for the Study seeking a partnership in which the Bureau would provide up to \$1 million in in-kind services. The Bureau notified the LACFCD in July 2011 that although the Bureau would not provide the full financial assistance sought for the Study, it would provide services in an amount up to \$75,000 to assist with redrafting the Study proposal and preparing a Plan of Study, a separate document needed as a preliminary requirement for conducting the Study.

Once the Study proposal and Plan of Study have been prepared and submitted, the Bureau will determine whether to accept the LACFCD's revised proposal to partner in the development of the Study. If the Bureau accepts the LACFCD's proposal, we will return to your Board to request approval to enter into a partnering Agreement with the Bureau for implementation of the Study.

The MOA will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel prior to execution by the Chief Engineer of the LACFCD.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The recommended action is an activity that is excluded from the definition of a project by Section 15378(b) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. This proposed action would involve organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

There will be no negative impact on current services.

The LACFCD will benefit from the Basin Studies Program in its efforts to implement innovative approaches to planning for future water supply needs.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please return two adopted copies of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Watershed Management Division.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/29/2011

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Farber".

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:GH:jtz

c: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)  
County Counsel  
Executive Office